

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Wasatch-Cache National Forest**  
**Federal Building**  
**125 South State Street**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah 84138**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: September 17, 2004

Contact: Kathy Jo Pollock (801) 236-3409 or  
(801) 558-8016

**OGDEN RANGER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT  
MONTE CRISTO PRESCRIBED BURN**

Tom Tidwell, Forest Supervisor, Wasatch-Cache National Forest announced today that the Ogden Ranger District is planning to burn aspen stands and mountain brush in the Monte Cristo area. The burn area is scheduled for treatment this fall and includes nine units totaling 2,600 acres of aspen, mixed conifers and mountain brush. The burn area is primarily located south and east of Highway 39, approximately 13 miles west of Woodruff, Utah. Depending, on weather conditions lighting of this prescribed burn could take place anytime from September 18, 2004 through the end of October. This prescribed burn is the first phase of a multi-year plan that reintroduces fire to the ecosystem for vegetation regeneration and hazardous fuels reduction near communities as part of land management agencies National Fire Plan.

The purpose of the burn is to improve aspen regeneration, wildlife habitat, livestock forage, to protect riparian areas, soils and prevent erosion. Additional, benefits include regeneration of vegetation to lower the risk of insect and disease and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires through the reduction of hazard fuels. The majority of the brush communities in the burn area are approaching late seral stages due to a lack of natural disturbances. In addition, grazing, fire suppression, and other management practices have changed the forest structure and composition, causing a decline in the ecological health of the forests.

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To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed fires must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind direction and speeds, smoke dispersal and expected fire behavior. This prescribed fire will only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions will allow the smoke to drift away from communities near the burn area. Travelers can expect delays along the roads in the area during the days of the burn and can expect to smell smoke.

Qualified fire personnel will use hand crews and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated area and engine and hand crews will monitor the fire until completed. For additional information please Kathy Jo Pollock at the Wasach-Cache, Supervisor's Office (801) 236-3409 or (801) 558-8016.

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**MEDIA NOTE: PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NEED APPROPRIATE FIRE RETARDANT CLOTHING (NOMEX) AND PROPER FOOTWEAR (LEATHER BOOTS UP PASSED THE ANKLE) IF YOU WISH TO ACCESS THE FIRE AREA.**